

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION

Saturday, October 19. 1706.

ONE Article more shall finish my Negatives ; Among the many People, who will *not be Gainers* by the Union with *Scotland*, I cannot omit ; the Gentlemen, who adhering to the Doctrine of *Jure Divino*, or some other Notion as absurd, flatter themselves with Hopes of the Restoration of the abdicated Line, and by Consequence are Haters and Abhorers of the Act of Parliament, and the Limitation of the Crown to the Protestant Princes of the House of *Hannover*.

These Gentlemen, I know, have flatter'd and deluded themselves with a strange, and I think, very absurd Notion ; that because the *Scots* did not immediately think fit to declare the Successor, or to fall in with us in our Act of Settlement, of which they have very publicly declared their Reasons ; that

therefore the Prince of *Wales* was in the bottom of the Design, and great Expectations, I know, some People have had that way, and we have been often told of another *Gilly Cranky* to be expected there.

I could go a great Way here to prove the Absurdity of such a Notion, and from the Improbability of it, with Relation to the Circumstances of the *Scots*, observe the Easiness of these People, whose Cause is sinking to bouy up with empty Bladders, and weak ill-grounded, or indeed ungrounded Suggestions ; but I have touch'd it already, I shall only observe, the *Scots* had no doubt a great Deal of Wrong done them in the Suggestion, neither was it fair arguing upon them ; that because they would not declare a Successor with us without a Treaty, that therefore they would not declare

clare it with a Treaty—And this is further demonstrated by putting the Suggesters of that Scandal upon examining the Treaty, that has now been on Foot, and answering these short Questions.

1st. In the Treaty have the *Scots* made the least Demand in Favour of King *James's* abdicated Line, or shewn the least Inclination that Way.

2d. Have they raised the least Objection against the Act of Settlement, desir'd any Additions or Alterations, either as to the Governors or the Conditions of Government.

3d. On the contrary, the Demands respecting nothing, but Matters of Constitution, Laws, Taxes, Religion and Liberty. Have they upon those things, being settled freely, come into the Succession without Hesitation, reserve Condition, or the least Expression of Dislike, either as to the Person, Family, or Circumstance.

Where then has been the Ground of this impertinent Scandal, rais'd only, if possible, to render the *Scots* suspected to those particular People in *England*, who were most zealous for the Succession, as now settled in the House of *Hannover*. I think, I need say no more to clear up this Case; the *Scots* have vindicated themselves from the Scandal in that upon a Treaty, they had nothing to demand on that Head, nor made the least Objection.

For ever therefore may these Gentlemen cease their Expectations on that Head, if ever King *James III.* as they call him, comes hither, as his Restoration must come out of the Clouds, so it must not be out of *Scotch* Clouds, his Star will hardly rise in the North, they may give it over there; for certainly the *Scots* have no Thought that way, nor generally speaking, I dare say, never had.

I may therefore, without Presumption, assure these Gentlemen, their Cause will be no Gainer by this Treaty——A UNION will for ever lock up this Island against that Pretence; *Jacobitism* can never more revive, it will have its mortal Stab in a Conjunction of the Kingdoms, and can never rise more.

Nor can I be persuaded, but if ever this

Union should be finished, as I am very loth to make doubt of; *The Jacobites*, as we call them, will throw up the Game. I am satisfied, the wisest of them will do it, they say, 'tis no sign of a Gamester to play on a lost Game; I am sure if these Times go on, the *French* beaten, and the *Scots* united, those Gentlemen will never pass for Gamesters, if they play on.

'Tis true, if a Man be in a Ship that foundres at Sea 500 Miles from Land, he will yet swim as long as he can hold up his Head, tho' he is sure to be drown'd; and these Gentlemen may think they ought to die hard, but certainly the Odds is so great against them, that I can see nothing they have before them, but to throw it up and come in.

Nor is to be forgotten, that by this Union the most topping and popular Argument is silenc'd, which some Gentlemen were pleas'd to bring to prove the Dangers to the Succession, from whence to urge the Necessity and Seasonableness of inviting over the presumptive Heir of the Crown to reside here.

For my part I hope, I am as sincerely in the Interest of the Succession, and happy in my being so by the Choice of my Judgment, as any Man in this Nation. I should rejoice in seeing the Branches of our Succession flourish in the Palace, and I do rejoice in the satisfaction our Government takes on all occasions to honour and caress them——But when People come to talk of the Necessity of having them here, the Dangers of their Absence, and the Possibility of a Disaster for Want of their being here. I confess, I am an Unbeliever in all those things.

I have not Time now, but I do purpose a short Essay at this one Head, in answer to some reproaching Assertions publish'd on that Affair. That is possible, for a Subject of *England* to be a sincere Friend to the Succession of *Hannover*, faithful to the Revolution, and to the present *English* Establishment, and yet not be of the Opinion; that the inviting the presumptive Heir over hither to reside, is at this time either necessary, or the Succession in Danger for Want of it.

But of this hereafter, I only hint it here to bring it to my Argument; if the Danger of our Succession, or any Part of that Danger came, from *Scotland* from their Acts of Security, and the like. *Union*, Gentlemen, makes that Cloud vanish, *Union* strengthens the Succession, defeats the Hopes of those, who built upon the Expectation, if any were foolish, of an Invitation to *Jas. VIII.* *Union* for ever closes up this Chasm, there can be no more Objection there; The *Scots* come in one and all, Hand and Heart, I mean, the governing Party to your Succession declare themselves a Part of your selves, under the same Sovereign, the same Succession, the same Power, and the same Subjection.

Exit Scotch Jacobitism, and I confess, I cannot but wonder at the Absurdities in that Suggestion; that the *Scots* Act of Security should tend to the restoring the Race of King *James*——That had been an Act against Security, 'tis certain, unless the *Scots* were blind to their own Safety, they could never call his Restoration their Security in the very Word, that Interest might read their Fate; if the *Scots* Eyes were open to their Security, as by that Act one of the wisest they ever made; 'tis plain they were, the *Jacobite* Interest could have small Hopes from such an Act, or such a Juncture, it must be a Juncture of Infatuation, not of open-ey'd Caution, that must give them any Prospects, and they were certainly strangely willing to raise Vapours, and fright themselves as well as other People; who suggested Dangers to the Succession, and Dangers to *England*, from the *Scots* making an Act for their own Security.

Nor can I omit to note, how the Policy of that Time made that Act look every way they thought fit, and how the strange and contradicting Consequences were suggested by every Party, as thought suited their Turn.

The *Williamites* suspected it of *Jacobitism*, and therefore as before hinted, unknown Dangers lurking in it, and looks upon it as

a *Trojan Horse* to the Succession——The *Jacobites* set the *High Church* men a railing at it, at the Beginning of a *Presbyterian* War against the Church; and how much of this was compounded in that odd——to say no more to it, for fortifying *Hull*, &c. I do not determine, a thing the *Scots* were very merry with, and Time has shewn to have had less Weight in it, if not less Policy, than such things usually carry in them.

So that in short, this Act of Security in *Scotland* was to the *Jacobites*, a Revolution to the *High-Flying* Succession Men, or old *Whigs* as they would be call'd, a *Jacobite* Plot to the *High-Church* men a *Presbyterian* Crusado, to the Generality a Scare-crow.

How this Contradiction came to pass, I know not; but how 'tis reconcil'd, I know, *Viz.* In its Consequence in that it conduces to *Union*, and there the *High-Church* are defeated, it conduces to declare the Succession, and there the Fears of the hot *Whigs* are prov'd vain, it conduces to Safety with Peace, and our Preparers for War are defeated; and I see no body's Fears just about that Act but the *Jacobites*. For 'tis a Revolution to them, and shuts them out of all their Hopes.

How strangely have Mankind jostled one another in these things, and how have all Parties been mistaken about the *Scots*——Let but the Union be the Effect of these things, and the Mistake will be yet more plain, *Union* will reconcile all the jarring Suggestions, *Union* will be the Perfection of Safety, 'twill be the Act of Security finish'd, and then repeal'd; 'twill be an effectual inviting over the presumptive Heir, 'twill banish the old Antimoscities of Nations, and 'twill effectually crush all those that sow Divisions among us; they'll blush at themselves, and sneak out of their own Cause at last, as their Cause has really sneak'd away from them, and left them; for certainly *Jacobitism* can be no Gainer by a Union with *Scotland*.

MISCELLANEA.

I Gave you last Time an Instance of some of Mr. Dyer's News relating to the King of Sweden, which if true, I confess, is of great Concern, *Viz.* His receiving a Bribe or Gift, or Price, call it what you please, of 200000 Crowns to invade Saxony. I must now give you another of his Paragraphs, *Viz.* That there is a Book publish'd in London lately, which if the Government does not take Notice of it, will set the Whig-Scriblers a Yelping.

This Gentleman News Writer being unaware, that by this he owns; that the Whig-Scriblers, as he calls them, and the Government resent the same things, or in short are all of a side, has thereby done them an Honour he never design'd them. But still has the Disaster to be out too, for I do not hear any of the Scriblers he talks of, have thought fit to meddle with it yet, and the Case is plain, the Book is so full of Noise, so empty of Sense, so much Fury and High-Church Rage, so little Substance or Argument in it, that 'tis worth no body's Notice; it has all the Spleen and Ill-Nature of the Memorial, without one Grain of the Spirit, Policy or Wit of that yet scandalous Libel, it abounds in Railery, has nothing of Argument, accuses without Fact, proves without Discovery, cavils at Trifles, calls Names, is very loud, rude and nonsensical, and in short says so little to the Purpose, that his own Party are ashamed of it, and he has this particular Mortification in it, that no body buys the Book, than which no Author, that is truly malicious, needs a greater.

However that Mr. Dyer may be gratified, and there may be some yelping at this Book, I promise him to look it over more nicely, and if I can, with the most diligent Search find any thing in it of Weight sufficient to merit the least Reply; he shall have it to say, that once in 500 Times he guess'd right, and he shall hear of it.

I used formerly to answer some Questions, Gentlemen, and some People have

been pleas'd to think themselves oblig'd. Now, pray, Gentlemen, if I have ever diverted you that Way, be pleas'd to assist and answer one Question for me.

I have been long teiz'd with a most importunate Querist, and who now begins to be peevish, that I do not answer him; the Question is short enough, and if the Man be answer'd in his Folly, the Answer may be as brief as the Question,

The Question is, *What Colour is the Devil?*

In this material considerable Affair, I cannot but call in the Help of all the wise Men, *not of the East*, for I think the People there are no wiser than their Neighbours; but all the Men of dark Knowledge, if that Term be proper, and that pretend to resolve great Doubts, and make other People as wise as themselves.

Help all the cunning Men of our Age, Astrologers, South-sayers, Dreamers of Dreams, secol' Sight-men, &c. and if ever you saw the old Gentleman assist a poor Author, *wholly at a Loss in the Matter*, to give a decisive Answer to this most significant Enquiry.

If you will not be so civil, but I must be forced to put the Enquirer off with my own Thoughts, he must be content with them as they are; which perhaps he may not find agreeable to his Desire, nor altogether so whimsical as the Question.

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